

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER//ECJ3-BS//
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JCS WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T RABAT 3426

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS MOPS CG
SUBJECT: ZAIRE AIRLIFT (U)

REF RABAT 3320

1. WITH THE FINAL LIFT OF MOROCCAN TROOPS ABOARD
CAHRTERED UTA DC-8 EARLY 7 JUNE, THE MOROCCAN PHASE OF
THE AIRLIFT OF THE SHABA AFRICAN FORCE WAS SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETED. ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE FINAL DEPARTURE OF
THE USAF TEAM THAT MANAGED THE AGADIR AIRLIFT AND THEIR
DEPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE. THEY AND 2 C-141 A/C REMAIN AT
AGADIR AWAITING ORDERS. THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE
OF THIS TEAM WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE COMMUNI-
CATION.

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2. THE BOTTOM LINE OF THIS OPERATION AS IT UNFORLDED OVER
THE PAST FIVE DAYS CAN BE CHARACTERIZED CONCISELY AS
TOTAL TRIPARTITIE MILITARY COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE. FOL-
LOWING THE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF GOM INTENTIONS TO DEPLOY
A MILITARY FORCE TO ZAIRE AS PART OF A PAN-AFRICAN
PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, THE MOROCCANS' LATE FRIDAY

NIGHT CONFIRMATION OF PREPAREDNESS TO COMMENCE ON THE WEEKEND AND REQUEST TO HAVE USAF AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATE IN THE AIRLIFT, A RAPID SERIES OF EVENTS UNFOLDED AND RESULTED IN A SMOOTH, WELL-COORDINATED OPERATION.

3. ON THE MILITARY SIDE, CLEARANCES WERE EXPEDITED, FORMALITIES WERE WAIVED, AND BUREAUCRATIC STUMBLING BLOCKS DISAPPEARED. IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FRENCH, THERE WAS CONSTANT, CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGES FROM THE AMBASSADORS ON DOWN, INCLUDING OUR POLITICAL OFFICERS AT EARLY STAGES AND OUR SERVICE ATTACHES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE OPERATION.

4. ON THE AIRLIFT SITE IN AGADIR, THE DAO REPRESENTATIVE, ASSIGNED AND DEPLOYED ON THREE HOURS' NOTICE, HAS REPORTED THAT AT THE WORKING LEVEL MOROCCAN COOPERATION AND OPENNESS CONTINUED IN AN OUTSTANDING MANNER THROUGHOUT. THERE WERE THE INEVITABLE EARLY PROBLEMS IN COORDINATION ATTRIBUTED TO MOROCCAN LACK OF EXPERIENCE OR UNFAMILIARITY WITH LARGE SCALE EMBARKATION OPERATIONS. THESE WERE QUICKLY RESOLVED. AS THE LIFT PROGRESSED, BOTH COOPERATION AND TEMPO OF GROUND EFFORT MOUNTED STEADILY. A SIMILAR PATTERN WAS NOTED IN THE FRENCH PERSONNEL LIFT.

5. OUR RECAP OF THE AIRLIFT GIVES THIS PICTURE: 12
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USAF MISSIONS WHICH CARRIED 307.1 TONS. THIS INCLUDED 201 PASSENGERS, VEHICLES, SPARE PARTS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EQUIPMENT, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, ONE COMPLETE OPERATING ROOM, FRESH PROVISIONS AND COMBAT RATIONS. THE FRENCH AIRLIFT, ONE AIR FRANCE 747 AND ONE DC-10 AND DC-8 FROM UTA (THE LATTER TWO FLYING TWO MISSIONS EACH) LIFTED 1179 TROOPS GIVING THE MOROCCAN 5TH INTER-AFRICAN CONTINGENT A TOTAL OF 1380 TROOPS. WE ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL BE BROUGHT UP TO ITS PLANNED STRENGTH OF 1455 LATER THROUGH THEIR OWN C-130 AIRLIFT CAPABILITY.

6. AS A MARK OF THEIR APPRECIATION THE MOROCCAN ARMY STAFF IN AGADIR GAVE A TRADITIONAL MOROCCAN DINNER ON JUNE 6 IN HONOR OF ALL THE AMERICANS AND FRENCH PARTICIPANTS IN AGADIR. IT WAS AN APPROPRIATE GESTURE THAT ENDED ON A POSITIVE, UPBREATHING NOTE OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP.
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